

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 062355

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: APRIL 4 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

1. ALL PAPERS FRONTPAGE NIXON- THIEU COMMUNIQUE. NYT'S
APPLE STRESSES US PLEDGE CONTINUING AID AND ABSENCE
SPECIFIC US PROMISE OF MILITARY INTERVENTION IF RVN
IMPERILED BY NEW COMMUNIST INVASION. WH OFFICIAL DES-
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PAGE 02 STATE 062355

CRIBES LANGUAGE AS " PURPOSEFULLY INDEFINITE;" FACT COMMUNIQUE REFERS TO AID FROM OTHER COUNTRIES LEAVES OPEN POSSIBILITY OF DECLINE IN US AID. ZIEGLER BRIEFING INDICATES PLANS FOR US AID IN NEXT FEW YEARS " PROBABLY BEYOND" FY 1973 \$500 MILLION. REFERENCE TO " APPROPRIATE VIGOROUS REACTIONS" TO COMMUNIST ACTIONS THREATENING VN AGREEMENT SEEN AS STRONGER THAN EARLIER PRESIDENTIAL COMMENTS ON SUBJECT, BUT NOT AS EXPLICIT AS RICHARDSON' S BLUMT REFERENCES TO RESUMPTION OF AMERICAN BOMBING. WH OFFICIAL NOTES US HAS RETAINED " TOTAL FLEXIBILITY" AND IS NOT COMMITTED TO ANY JOINT RESPONSE WITH GVN EITHER AS TO NATURE, TIMING OR PROVOCATION (NYT).

2. IN SIMILAR COVERAGE, WP' S KILPATRICK FEATURES NIXON-THIEU CHARGE OF NVN INFILTRATION AND FACT THEY SAY THEY HAVE REACHED " FULL CONSENSUS IN THEIR VIEWS." KILPATRICK NOTES GVN DEPENDENCE UPON US AID AND SAYS THIEU WILL HAVE CHANCE DISCUSS HIS ECONOMIC REQUIREMENTS IN WASHINGTON WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, BEFORE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB AND WITH WORLD BANK' S MCNAMARA. SUN' S CLYMER DESCRIBES COMMUNIQUE REFERENCE TO " APPROPRIATE VIGOROUS REACTIONS" TO CONTINUED COMMUNIST INFILTRATION AS " IMPRECISE THREAT," AND REPORTS ZIEGLER DECLINES BE ANY MORE SPECIFIC. COMMUNIQUE DID NOT REFER TO AID TO DRV, REUNIFICATION, OR GVN C- F VIOLATIONS, ALTHOUGH US SOURCE SAYS LATTER CAME UP DURING DISCUSSIONS, " IF NOT WITH GREAT EMPHASIS," ACCORDING CLYMER. NYDN' S CARTER NOTES COMMUNIQUE MAKES NO REFERENCE TO CONTINUED US BOMBING OF CAMBODIA.

3. CSM' S SAIKOWSKI DISCUSSES THIEU' S " IMAGE" IN US, SAYING HE DOESN' T ARRIVE HERE AS " CONQUERING HERO," AND REMINDS OF DIEM' S VISIT TO EISENHOWER 16 YEARS AGO. HILL CRITICS WILL RESENT HIS PRESENCE BECAUSE " DAPPER, WILY, VIETNAMESE REPRESENTS TO THEM EVERYTHING THEY HAVE OPPOSED AND DETESTED ABOUT THE VIETNAM WAR, INCLUDING WHAT THEY SEE AS THE RUTHLESSNESS AND CORRUPTION OF THE SAIGON REGIME." SHELDON SAYS AMERICANS' FIRST GLANCE OF THIEU IS THAT OF " CONFIDENT SOLDIER-POLITICIAN." THINGS HAVEN' T ALWAYS GONE WELL BETWEEN NIXON OFFICIALS AND THIEU, BUT BOTH MEN HAVE MUCH TO LOSE BY FAILURE TO PRESENT UNITED FRONT. THIEU SEEKS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 062355

NEW FRIENDS IN US, AND HIS PERFORMANCE IN CALIFORNIA

SUGGESTS HE EQUAL TO TASK.

4. NYT' S GWERTZMAN REPORTS KEY ADMIN OFFICIAL SAYS
DRV " FULLY UNDERSTOOD" IN LAST HOURS OF PARIS NEGOTS
US WOULD CONTINUE US AIR ACTION OVER CAMBODIA UNTIL
C- F ACHIEVED THERE. PARTICIPANT AT PARIS, WHO ASKED
NOT TO BE IDENTIFIED, SAYS HAK READ STATEMENT TO THAT
EFFECT INTO RECORD ON JAN. 23, AND THO DIDN' T OBJECT.
STATEMENT SAID US WOULD OBSERVE C- F IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA
ONCE THEY ACHIEVED. APPARENTLY HAK ALLUDED TO STATEMENT
IN FEB.1 TV INTERVIEW WHEN HE SAID US POSITION THIS
RESPECT HAD BEEN " MADE CLEAR" TO HANOI. GWERTZMAN
OBSERVES HAK WAS " AMBIGUOUS" IN RESPONSE JAN.
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